

# Romsey Town Council

Chief Officer: Helen Klaassen PSLCC

Town Hall  
1, Market Place  
Romsey  
SO51 8YZ



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## MINUTES of the FULL COUNCIL MEETING held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Romsey Town Hall.

In the Chair: Cllr. J. Parker

### Attendance:

#### Present:

Councillor J. Burnage	Councillor N. Gwynne	Councillor S. Wilkinson
Councillor M. Cooper	Councillor R. Kohli	Councillor C. Burgess
Councillor S. Gidley	Councillor J. Parker	
Councillor R. Theron	Councillor J. Ray	

#### Absent:

Councillor A. Goddard	Councillor I. Culley	Councillor J. Urquhart
Councillor C. Birkett	Councillor J. Critchley	

#### Also in Attendance:

Helen Klaassen – Chief Officer  
Suzi Shilling – Business, Events and Tourism Officer

#### Public:

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### TC001 PRAYERS

None.

### TC002 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr John Critchley, Cllr Aiden Goddard, Cllr Ian Culley and Cllr Chris Birkett.

### TC003 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

### TC004 MINUTES

(a) To receive and approve as a true and accurate record the Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

Cllr Burgess **PROPOSED** and Cllr Ray **SECONDED**, and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as true and accurate record of the meeting.

(b) Matters Arising.

Cllr Burgess reported that a letter had been sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the re-opening of the front desk at Romsey Police Station, and that a copy had been emailed to councillors.

### TC005 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr Wilkinson **PROPOSED** and Cllr Cooper **SECONDED**, and it was **RESOLVED** that the meeting be adjourned to allow for public participation.

(a) To receive formal presentations from individuals or organisations which are an identified agenda item

None.

(b) To receive verbal reports from Borough and County Councillors regarding matters of interest to Romsey Town Councillors

#### Cllr Burnage reported:

Despite now having a Crossing Patrol Officer, the crossing at Cupernham Lane still needed a proper crossing installed.

**Cllr Cooper reported:**

That he had a constructive meeting with the Planning Inspector regarding Edwina Mountbatten House and was optimistic that they may still find in favour of the refusal, following the reprehensible behaviour of TVBC in capitulating at the hearing. The restoration at Roke quarry works were taking a long time owing to shortage of inert materials and would likely be granted an extension of time.

The county council's £152m budget gap has been extended to £175m following £100m in government grants being taken out of the budget. Regular meetings were being held to review two out of the three areas of cuts. Additionally, he had been attending meetings regarding the future of the waste recycling centres. Polling has shown that 87% of people did not want the centres closed but were prepared to accept potential flexibility in opening hours and chargeable items. Cllr Cooper noted he would be speaking in favour of keeping them open as he had been approached by number of residents requesting that they remain open.

Cllr Cooper also noted that he had attended the Romsey Show and felt that the town council should have a stand there. As Councillors agreed, the Chief Officer undertook to pursue the matter.

A petition was presented to HCC regarding the Cupernham Lane Crossing (compliments were offered to the lady who had organised this) and it now had a Crossing Patrol Officer. HCC would be looking at other, cheaper alternatives than a standard crossing.

**Cllr Parker reported:**

Following the government increasing housing numbers, the burden on Test Valley would rise to 921 from 524, a proportion of which would fall on the southern half of Test Valley.

Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework were currently out for consultation. TV BC was formulating a response. The final version should be out by December. As a result of this it was likely that planning authorities may see an increase in applications and more permissions would be granted at appeal contrary to current local plan policy. and.

Cllr Cooper noted that the other matter to consider was whether developers would have the ability to meet the higher house building numbers and that the borough/district councils in Hampshire should consider the issue collectively. Additionally, that developers should be limited to how long they hold onto sites for before they develop them.

Cllr Burgess noted that a lack of infrastructure was an issue too.

**(c) Questions from members of the public to Town Councillors**

None.

**(d) Questions from members of the public to Borough Councillors**

None.

**(e) Questions from members of the public to the County Councillor**

None.

**(f) Questions from Town Councillors to Borough Councillors**

None.

**(g) Questions from Town Councillors to County Councillor**

None.

The meeting reconvened, following public participation.

**TC006 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

To receive and note the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024(draft)

Cllr Parker **PROPOSED**, Cllr Theron **SECONDED**, and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted.

**TC007 BUILDINGS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

To receive and note the minutes of the Town & Building Committee meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024(draft)

Cllr Parker **PROPOSED**, Cllr Wilkinson **SECONDED**, and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted.

#### **TC008 FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

To receive and note the minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee meetings held 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024(draft)

Cllr Gwynne **PROPOSED**, Cllr Parker **SECONDED**, and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted.

#### **TC009 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEES**

##### **Southampton Road**

##### **To receive and note the minutes**

No minutes were received, Cllr Burgess would find out if they had been sent.

Plot agreements would now be countersigned by two committee members.

##### **Kings Chase**

##### **To receive and note the minutes.**

Cllr Theron **PROPOSED**, Cllr Burgess **SECONDED**, and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted.

Cllr Theron noted that plot 10 had been informally subdivided and assigned to multiple tenants. The ruling of the Town Council that the shared tenancy must be honoured had been accepted. Whilst there were no lingering issues, it had initially generated a bit of ill feeling.

The constitution would be agreed at the January meeting.

As larger plots became available, they would be split into smaller plots and separate tenancies issued.

The town council were having some issues with matching fee payments to payees for BACS payments.

#### **TC010 CORNMARKE SECURITY**

The matter was discussed. It was noted that the Morrisons issue was a separate issue to the Cornmarket proposals.

HCC had advised that the road closure signs used for the market were not legally binding and, in fact, constituted an unlawful impedance to traffic and requested they be removed. SS had therefore moved the stalls themselves to ensure pedestrian and stall holder safety and to get them off the road running through the Cornmarket.

It was noted that significant evidence would be required for HCC before they would consider altering the TRO and making changes to the area, but that current traffic rules were being ignored and needed to be enforced.

Signage was inadequate, especially at the Bell Street end. A further meeting would be held in four weeks' time.

#### **TC011 PROPOSED PEREGRINE FALCON VIDEO LINK**

Cllr Neil Gwynne **PROPOSED**, Cllr Colin Burgess **SECONDED**, and it was **RESOLVED** that the town council should meet up to half of the cost of installing a video camera at Romsey Abbey to record the Peregrine Falcons on the tower, which would be in the region of £2500.

A question was raised regarding ongoing costs and the CO was asked to confirm what they would be. The video could also be hosted on the TC's website.

Cllr Kohli abstained from the vote.

#### **TC012 ROMSEY FUTURE**

The project tracker had been reviewed at the meeting, it was noted that there was progress, albeit slow.

An update on the Changing Places lavatories had been received. The proposal to locate a modular unit in Lortimore Car Park has been withdrawn. TVBC will investigate and bring forward alternative plans.

The master plan for the bus station site was fixed and there would be no changes.

The compulsory purchase of the brewery site was progressing slowly.

A bid to Sustrans had been made for the Romsey to Timsbury Route.

S106 money from Ganger Farm could possibly be spent on a route to school.

TVBC had commissioned a new car parking survey, which revealed that car parking in Romsey was at 90% capacity at peak times, thus there was a need for more parking availability somewhere.

The survey also indicated that retail needs were satisfied and thus there was no need for a large new supermarket in or adjacent to the town, though it was noted that the survey had been conducted before the local housing numbers increased.

#### **TC013 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

The mayor noted that his attendances could be found on the town council's website.

#### **TC014 CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**TC015 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nothing in particular, but details could be found on the Town Council's website.

**The meeting concluded at 8.40pm.**

**Next Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_